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LETTER DATED 22 JANUARY 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, the letter of His Excellency Mr. Dobrica Cosić, President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, regarding the attack of the Croatian forces on the United Nations protected areas.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Letter dated 22 January 1993 from the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia addressed to the President of the Security Council

It is my duty to inform you of the armed attack of the Army of the Republic of Croatia on the territory of the Republic of Serbian Krajina, which is under the protection of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

Today, at 7.05 a.m., a forceful artillery preparation was launched from arms of all calibres, multiple rocket launchers and tanks, after which combined infantry and tank forces started the attack in three directions: Starigrad - Obrovac, along the ridge of the Velebit mountain; from Zadar towards Zemunik and Benkovac; and towards Maslenica - Zemunik. A strong sabotage-terrorist group infiltrated the region of Alan saddle on Velebit. Helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft of the Croatian Army are carrying out the reconnaissance of the area of operations, while new infantry and armoured-mechanized units are being brought in from the direction of Split. Artillery 130 mm ordnance, ready to strike at Knin, is deployed in the region of Pakovo Selo.

Already in the first conflicts the forces of the Republic of Serbian Krajina, resisting enemy attacks, have suffered losses. One UNPROFOR building near Maslenica has been hit.

This attack represents a flagrant violation of the Vance Plan for the establishment of the United Nations protected areas. The attack was carried out in a way that not only violates the achieved agreement, but also directly threatens the UNPROFOR forces in the field.

Such an act seriously jeopardizes the already fragile cease-fire in this area, and threatens the flare-up of conflicts and their extension to broader areas, from the hinterland of the Republic of Serbian Krajina to the territories of the former Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The consequences of such an attack can only be extremely negative for the current efforts exerted by the participants in the Geneva Conference towards establishing a lasting and just peace in the overall territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is committed to observing the Vance Plan, and that is exactly what it is doing. However, the armed attacks of the Army of the Republic of Croatia threaten the Serbian people in the Republic of Serbian Krajina, which is under the protection of UNPROFOR. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has both the right and duty to protect the Serbian people, which it will undoubtedly do, if UNPROFOR fails to do so.

The actions of the Army of the Republic of Croatia represent a classical example of aggressive behaviour and violation of agreements reached under the auspices of the Security Council, and therefore require the urgent action of the Security Council to halt the armed attacks, protecting the Serbian people in the Republic of Serbian Krajina and the United Nations forces, which are also exposed to these attacks.

I kindly ask you to immediately inform all members of the Security Council of this new development and to convene the Security Council, in order for it to make appropriate decisions in this respect.

Dobrica COSIĆ
President